Precautionary steps for temperature rise

1968. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has sent a letter to the wheat growing States to take precautions against abnormal temperature rise; and

(b) if so, the precautionary steps, the State Government are taking for creating favourable climate for the wheat crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The major wheat growing States *viz.* Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab had been sensitized to ensure adequate irrigation water and electricity in wheat growing districts of the States to mitigate the impact of rise in temperature.

(b) The farmers have been advised to apply frequent light irrigation in case temperature rises abnormally. Besides, balanced use of fertilizers has also been promoted to minimize the adverse effect of high temperature.

Setting up of National Agriculture Risk Fund

†1969. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding setting up of the National Agriculture Risk Fund is under consideration of Government:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of governmental and non-governmental agencies which would be involved in the said Fund; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to consider any such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Commission on Farmers (NCF) has recommended for setting up of an Agriculture Risk Fund to insulate farmers from risks arising from recurrent droughts and other weather aberrations. The Government is, at present; examining the recommendations of NCF.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Question does not arise.

Relief package for Kerala

1970. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has forwarded a proposal for relief package for the districts of Idukki and Alappuzha of Kerala which are facing agricultural distress:

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance sought from the Central Government;

(c) whether Government have given its approval to the proposal;

(d) if so, whether the amount for the proposal has been sanctioned and released to the state;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, by when the amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of proposal forwarded by Government of Kerala for relief package for Idukki and Alappuzha districts are given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved plan of action for Idukki and Alappuzha Districts on the following lines:—

(i) Constitution of a multi-disciplinary team to study and suggest programmes for preservation and development of kuttanad wetlands in Alappuzha district;

(ii) Launch of programme for rejuvenation of plantation crops in a Mission mode;

(iii) Revival of coconut cultivation in Kerala;

(iv) Construction of new fishing harbours in the state; and

(v) Provide institutional credit coverage to all eligible farmers of these two districts;